



Frederica Almanack

History Coming to Life at Fort Frederica

Fort Frederica Living History Festival

Fort Frederica National Monument has a quiet and ancient solitude. Stately live oaks and swaying palm trees stand above bleaching ruins and non-intrusive brick and tabby foundations. Quietly the Frederica River glides past the silenced cannons of Fort Frederica. Indeed, it is hard to imagine the hustling, bustling town and fort that once occupied the site. It remains a challenge to bring the history of the site to life in a vivid way.



The Frederica Living History Festival will feature musket drill and firing. This 1879 engraving from *Our Country: A Household History For All Reader* depicts General Oglethorpe drilling soldiers at Frederica.

On February 12, 2005 the history of Fort Frederica National Monument will come to life at the Fort Frederica Living History Festival. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to delve into the lifestyles of the original residents of the town and fort.

“The National Park Service is indeed lucky enough to have wonderful volunteers, both near and far, who travel to Frederica to share this story,” according to park event coordinator Jon Burpee. Volunteers from Tennessee, Florida, North

Carolina and Georgia will be on hand portraying the residents and soldiers of Frederica and the Spanish forces from Florida. Activities throughout the day are designed to engage all visitors, and particularly children in this history. The Stewart-Law Baroque Ensemble Trio will provide music at 1 PM.

This free event starts at 9 AM and ends at 4 PM. **For additional information, call 912-638-3639.**

Sneak Preview of New Park Film

The new park orientation film, *History Uncovered*, will be shown on February 12, 2005 at the Fort Frederica Living History Festival. This exciting new film tells the story of Frederica’s past and the modern exploration of Frederica’s archaeological remains. In addition, a photo exhibit about the making of the film will be on display in the visitor center.

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A Message from the Fort Frederica Superintendent

Many visitors to Fort Frederica wonder how the park uses the entrance fee they pay. The park is fortunate that it gets to keep a portion of the fees to use for specific projects. We can also apply for "grants" from a service-wide fund into which the remainder goes. This year, we funded some projects from fees that will benefit our visitors for years to come.

First and foremost amongst these projects is the production of our new Visitor Center film that replaces the badly outdated 1969 film. Due in early 2005, this new film features recreated civilian and battle scenes that vividly tell the story of Frederica. Intertwined with the action is the story of the role archeology plays in bringing the park's history to light. A "Sneak Preview" is planned, so stay tuned for that announcement.

Our Living History program is coming to life, with lots of new equipment purchased with fee collection funds, and a powder magazine constructed which will allow us to do weapons demonstrations. Rumor has it that the purchase of a cannon is imminent, with firing demonstrations to follow.

Without our fee collection operation, these projects would not happen. The small entrance fee provides benefits well beyond its initial value by allowing us to provide services and information that will help present and future visitors better understand Fort Frederica's important role in our nation's history.

Mike Tennent
Superintendent

An Update from the Division of Interpretation and Education.

Contributed by Kim Coons, Chief of Interpretation.

2004 was a very exciting year in the interpretation and education division of Fort Frederica NM. Three new employees were hired and several new programs have been developed and presented. While visiting you may experience a hands-on musket drill, a tabby demonstration or a children's archaeology program.

As you tour the site you may notice the new street and alley signs and the tall grass between the signs. These changes were made to help the visitor understand that this was an actual town, as well as military outpost. With the streets marked you can begin to visualize a vital and bustling town of 268 years ago.

The making of the new park film, *History Uncovered* is another exciting project. Filming is completed and includes reenactments of the battles of Gully Hole Creek and Bloody Marsh as well as life at Frederica in the 1730s and 1740s. The film is in the editing stages and a preview should be complete by the Fort Frederica Festival slated for February 12, 2005

New exhibits, programs and a children's activity table are just a few of the changes that have occurred within the division and a lot more good things are ahead. Thank you for visiting and we hope that you will come back again and again.

Help the Park – Recycle Your Brochure

While visiting the park you may have noticed a couple of wooden boxes for recycled brochures at the Visitor Center and near the Cemetery. Due to rising costs to print these beautiful color pamphlets, we are trying to

conserve our resources by recycling the brochures for future visitors. If you do not want to keep your brochure as a souvenir please do your part by using the recycling boxes. Thank you!



Fort Frederica National Monument was lucky enough to utilize some fine reenactors for the new park film, *History Uncovered*. Members of the Castillo de San Marcos garrison are pictured above at Fort King George Historic Site.

Photo by Kim Coons.

At Fort Frederica National Monument...Maintenance Matters

Contributed by Tree Gottshall, Chief of Maintenance.

We hope you found it easy to locate Fort Frederica National Monument when you chose to visit us today! Our maintenance staff has been hard at work the last few months upgrading the road signage which helps guide you across the F. J. Torras Causeway from the mainland to St Simons Island and Fort Frederica. In some instances, signs have been re-located to help improve visibility, and we expect to have all signs replaced and in position by the end of this fiscal year. So just what goes into a program of replacing road signage?

Most of the directional signs that have been replaced so far had been in place since the early '90's. Since the island is surrounded by fresh, salty air, corrosiveness has an effect on sign appearance that is not quite evident on signs located, in say, a Midwestern state or a landlocked community. So occasionally our maintenance staff will travel around the island, cleaning our signs of the salt and road dirt buildup that eventually will interfere with its visibility. But eventually, and in our case about 7-9 years, the salty air wins out and our signs must be replaced.

Weather is not the only reason that dictates sign replacement. There are also instances when a wayward vehicle has a collision with one of our signs. In most cases, it has been proven that excessive speed and tailgating too closely are the main factors that cause these accidents, so while you're visiting and traveling around our beautiful little island, please observe the speed limits and enjoy the scenery, like our beautiful, majestic Live Oaks!

Did you notice our large sign that announced Fort Frederica as being "9 Miles Ahead" as you traveled thru the "Marshes of Glynn" on the causeway? Measuring 6' X 16', how could you miss it! That sign went up this past



Visitors to Fort Frederica National Monument are greeted by the signature entrance signs made of tabby. Tabby was the building material for many of the structures of Frederica in the 18th Century.
Photo by Tree Gottshall.

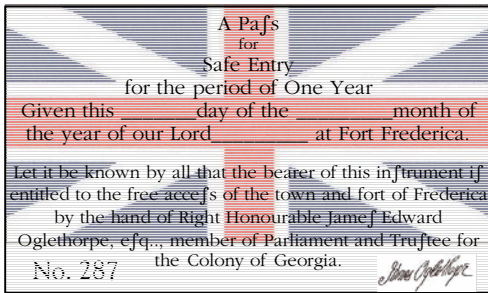
summer with help from the Georgia Department of Transportation, and it meets their specifications for signage on a state highway in a coastal area. What's most important is that it is mounted on steel I-beams. Why? Remember our location is situated along the coast not far from the warm waters of the Gulf Stream. Although the St Simons Island / Brunswick area has not sustained a direct hit in many years (and we're crossing our fingers), hurricane activity is always on the minds of locals during the summertime. If the island was ever to be evacuated, the causeway is our only way off the island. And a sign that has been blown down by hurricane force winds may end up on the highway, slowing the evacuation. So ours, because of its size, is set back off the shoulder of the highway and anchored to the earth firmly with concrete. If you missed it on the way over and want to catch a glance on the way back, have the kids look out the back window and to the other side of the road after you pass the old toll booths. And here's another personal tip I'd like to share with you. If you're traveling back to the mainland on the causeway near sunset, you'll quickly see why we're

part of the "Golden Isles". For a moment, just as the sun sets at the horizon, the marshes turn a spectacular golden orange, hence the meaning of "Golden Isles". It's something you'll never forget.

OK, so that's the scoop on our causeway sign. So what else is considered when planning new signs? How about the size of the letters and the background? Lettering size is based on the speed limit of the road and how many lanes it has. Signs are sized correctly when they can be read easily; that is, they don't take your eyes off the road for too long. You ought to be able to read and understand a sign quick enough so you're driving is not severely interrupted. A quick glance ought to do it and you continue your way down the road, safely.

If you noticed, all of our signs have a brown background. That distinguishes the National Park Service as a "natural resources" agency. All attractions with similar missions will have a brown background. So, if you continue on your vacation to our sister national park areas, Cumberland Island National Seashore (continued on page 4)

Experience a Year of History with the Fort Frederica Pass



The number of special programs at Fort Frederica National Monument is growing. With all the new offerings you might want to consider purchasing an annual Fort Frederica pass. The \$10 pass entitles the holder (including spouse, children, and parents) to

free admission to Fort Frederica for one year from the time of purchase. You can purchase the pass at the counter in the Visitor Center. A portion of each park pass sale stays in the park and supports special projects and programs.



“Maintenance Matters”

(continued from page 3)

Fort Frederica Needs You!

Are you interested in history? Would you like to help share the story of Fort Frederica and the early settlement of the Colony of Georgia? Do you want to help the National Park Service preserve this incredible place for future generations?

If so, please consider becoming a National Park Service volunteer. If you are interested in making a difference in your national park, please visit the visitor center to get a volunteer application or contact volunteer coordinator Jon Burpee at 912-638-3639 or e-mail Jon_Burpee@nps.gov.

New Junior Rangers



Every year, hundreds of young visitors complete the requirements to earn a Fort Frederica Junior Ranger Badge. A few of the latest Junior Rangers include:

- ★Colin Marney, age 9, Grayson, GA
- ★Madison Richards, age 8, Glenmore, PA
- ★Connelly Richards, age 6, Glenmore, PA
- ★Ashley Asbell, age 10, Roswell, GA
- ★Raivyn Inherst, age 6, St. Augustine, FL
- ★Donovan Carr, age 7, St. Augustine, FL
- ★Lucy Aguilar, age 8, Buford, GA
- ★Robert Henry, age 9, Marietta, OH

Congratulations, Junior Rangers!!

to the south or Fort Pulaski National Monument to the north, you may get an understanding from their signage that they are managed by the National Park Service also.

So where do our signs come from? Some of the larger western national park areas, such as Rocky Mountain National Park, have such an extensive catalog of signs that they employ woodcrafters to produce their own signs on site. Some entrance signs, for example, are so elaborate they require a master craftsman to fabricate. So if you have a young aspiring woodworker in the family, you can suggest a National Park Service career for her or him some day! Other national park areas, such as Fort Frederica, rely on Federal Prison Industries for their sign needs. We send our specifications to them, and in a few weeks, our sign arrives in a big, well packed box in the mail.

Speaking of entrance signs, I hope you got an eye on ours as you passed thru the front gate on your way to the Visitor Center. Strictly speaking and with a little deliberate subtlety, national park areas use the architecture of entrance signs to prepare the visitor for what lies ahead (and they make a great background for the family picture also). Some veteran national park area visitors even rate their favorite park entrance signs! Well, ours here at Fort Frederica is not just what looks like to be a giant slab of concrete. It's a tabby wall, a marvel of masonry that

represents the building block of the Fredericatown era. Visitors can learn more about it from a park ranger at the Visitor Center. Ask to see if Ranger Gerry is conducting his tabby demonstration during your visit, and watch how oyster shells, lime, sand, and water come together to form such a strong building material. More examples of tabby can be seen while visiting the town site. Then have the kids look at that sign again on the way out. Ours is the only tabby entrance sign that can be found in the national park system.

The National Park Service staff at Fort Frederica National Monument has a strong commitment to maintain the national monument so you have a safe and enjoyable facility for your entire family to enjoy. Whether it is the maintenance of park signs, the upkeep of building assets, the preservation of the cultural landscape and grounds, or the protection of the natural environment, we strive to provide you with an educational experience that broadens your thinking about our cultural past. Let us know how we're doing. Your suggestions may be able to help us improve for those who follow in the future. Thanks for visiting with us today!

(Tree has just entered his 25th year of working for the National Park Service. He has worked in various park locations throughout the country and has been at Fort Frederica for a year and a half.)

From the Pen of Francis Moore, 1736

Francis Moore served as the recorder at Frederica. Upon his return to England in 1743, he published the first of three portions of his journal and vowed to publish the other installments if the first installment met financial success. Unfortunately, he did not meet with success and the other portions of his journal are lost to history. Below are a few excerpts from his published journal focusing on the founding and construction of Frederica in 1736:

February 18: "...in the morning we arrived at the island of St. Simons. When the sloop came up the ground was covered with long grass. Mr. Tanner fired it, and it destroyed all vermin, and made the country round clear, so as not be only pleasant to the eye, but convenient for walking."

February 19: "Mr. Oglethorpe began to mark out a fort with four bastions, and taught the men how to dig the ditch, and raise and turf the rampart."

Francis Moore spent much of late February and early March away from Frederica. Upon his return on March 18, he was amazed at the progress in building Frederica.

"I was surprised to find there was a battery of cannon mounted, which commanded the river, and the fort almost built. The town was building, the streets all laid out, the main street...was twenty-five yards wide."



For an interesting read about the founding of Frederica and the early settlement of Georgia, Francis Moore's *A Voyage to Georgia* is available in the Visitor Center bookstore.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Frederica National Monument is a premier historical and archaeological site that shares and preserves the history associated with the British settlement of the Colony of Georgia and the struggle with Spain for control of the region. The National Park Service values working with partners and the public to bring this special history to life.

Fort Frederica National Monument
6515 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

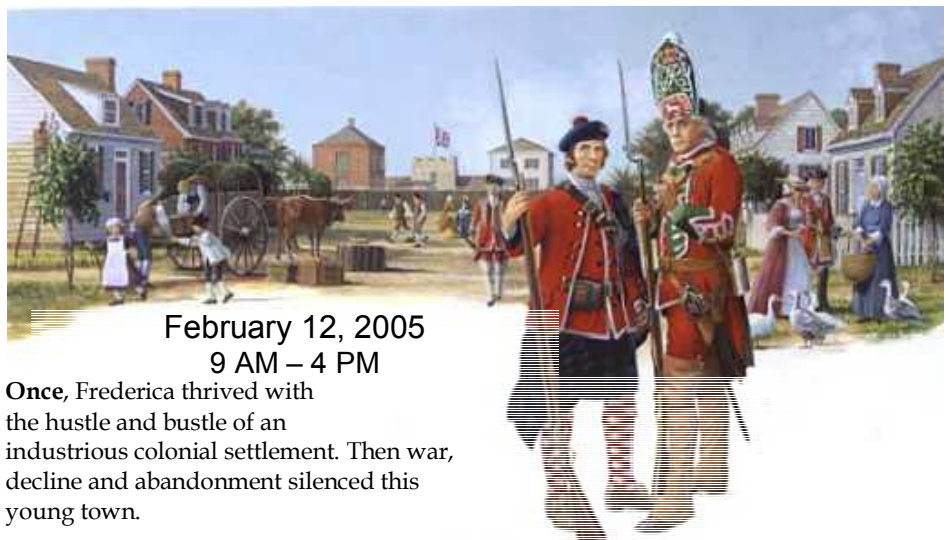
Phone
912 638-3639

Web Site Address
www.nps.gov/fofr/

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Mystery Answer from page 6: Oglethorpe is the gentleman in the middle dressed in black shaking Toonahowi's hand. (Creek Indian boy).

Upcoming Events - 2005 Fort Frederica Festival



February 12, 2005
9 AM – 4 PM

Once, Frederica thrived with the hustle and bustle of an industrious colonial settlement. Then war, decline and abandonment silenced this young town.

Again, soldiers and settlers walk the streets of Frederica. Muskets and cannons roar amid rumors of a Spanish invasion. Frederica is back to life.

And this time, you're invited.

For additional information about these and other programs offered at Fort Frederica National Monument please visit our website at www.nps.gov/fofr/ or call the Visitor Center at 912-638-3639.

The *Frederica Almanack* is published quarterly by Fort Frederica National Monument. The purpose of the *Almanack* is to provide information about Fort Frederica NM to interested visitors, partners, and volunteers. The *Volunteer Dispatch* is named after military dispatches that were sent to posts and troops throughout Coastal Georgia. The *Almanack* is also available online at www.nps.gov/fofr.

Editor

Jon Burpee

Chief of Interpretation

Kim Coons

Contributors

Jon Burpee
Kim Coons
Tree Gottshall
Denise Spear
Mike Tennent

NPS Photographers

Kim Coons
Tree Gottshall

Comments? Write to:

Jon Burpee
Fort Frederica National Monument
6515 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
Jon_Burpee@nps.gov

Exhibit Mystery: Where's Oglethorpe?

Contributed by Denise Spear, Chief of Cultural Resources.

While editing the park's much anticipated new movie, park staff uncovered a mystery. In the Visitor Center a copy of a painting showing the Georgia Trustees meeting with Tomochichi in London is on display. For long it has been assumed that James Edward Oglethorpe is the foppish gentleman in red to the left of the seated clerks. A flurry of research and contacts with the Georgia State Archives and the Winterthur Museum in Delaware revealed not only the identity of Oglethorpe, but also gave us a guide to the rest as well. Can you spot Oglethorpe in the Visitor Center painting? *Answer on page 5.*



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